

EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at the Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green on Wednesday 13th April 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Alan Bilby
Cllr Lorraine Christie
Cllr John Jardine (Chairman)
Cllr Dean Nokes
Cllr Stephen Smith
Cllr Christine Willetts

There were eight members of the public in attendance.

CBC Ward Councillor Dennis Willetts also attended the meeting.

149-21/22 To receive Apologies for Absence and confirm acceptance of those apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Morgan and acceptance of those apologies was confirmed.

150-21/22 To agree to co-opt Mr Stephen Smith on to the Council and to receive his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

It was **agreed** to co-opt Mr Stephen Smith on to the Council and his Declaration of Acceptance of Office was received.

151-21/22 Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

152-21/22 Public Participation

A resident referred to the problem of parking and the recent survey carried out by Cllr Lewis Barber. He said the results had been published in the newsletter with percentages but he did not know the actual numbers involved. He said he believed that Cllr Barber had consulted more widely in the constituency than the area the survey directly addressed.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

Cllr Dennis Willetts said that other residents would respond to the survey as news of it spread. He said in scrutinising the returns only residents living in the relevant areas were considered.

The resident said the surveys had been anonymous with no mention of where each respondent lived.

Cllr Willetts said all guidelines had been followed in conducting the survey. He said there would always be a degree of uncertainty but this had been an informal consultation and not under election conditions. He said he would look for information on the numbers but did not have this information to hand.

Mr Chambers said the cricket season would kick off on Saturday 16 April 2022 on the heath. He said the bar would be open from 1pm and allw ere welcome.

153-21/22 To agree as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 9 March 2022

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 9 March 2022 were **agreed** as a true record.

154-21/22 Report from the County and Borough Councillors: Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.

Cllr Willetts said he had no specific issues to report and was happy to take questions.

Cllr Christie referred to the garages in Porters Lane and the possible change of use to parking spaces. She said the parking problems in the area were horrendous and more spaces would benefit the whole Close with lots of positives.

Cllr Dennis Willetts said as yet no decision had been made although there were issues with the site and something would have to be done. He said across the borough, similar sites would be assessed for housing with this site being unsuitable at present. He said if the budget could be found it was potentially possible to make the area parking spaces, although enforcement would be necessary. He said at the moment the scheme was at a very early stage.

155-21/22 To review the Council's Action Tracker and to note any action necessary.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

The Council's Action Tracker was reviewed.

a) Village Hall update

Cllr Jardine said the Church committee had met the previous evening and had decided not to proceed with leasing the church site for a community building. He said as the Parish Council had paid for the survey he would be asking for further information.

b) Project List for Colchester Borough Council

Cllr Jardine explained that the Borough Council would like to hold a project list for the parish for reference when allocating S106 money. He asked councillors to consider potential projects and to contact the Clerk.

156-21/22 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester Borough Council and to note decisions made on previous applications

220576 - Tara House, Huxtables Lane, Fordham Heath Colchester CO3 9TJ - Alterations and extensions to an existing 16 storey dwelling to create a 2 storey dwelling and addition of single storey side extension and porch (Revised Description)

It was **agreed** there was nothing contrary to the Design Guide in this application although the roofline should be checked to ensure it would not be a problem for neighbours.

220721 - Fiddlers Farm, Fiddlers Hill, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO3 9TU - Application to determine if prior approval is required for proposed change of use of agricultural buildings to dwellinghouse.

It was **agreed** that comments made on the previous application were still valid. It was also noted that the Woodland Trust should be consulted following their comments on the previous application.

220465 - Brookside, 42 Spring Lane, Fordham Heath Colchester CO3 9TH - Small extension to the front of the property to add a porch and additional bathroom.

It was **agreed** there was no objection to this application.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

Planning Decisions

220228 - 31 Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green CO6 3QF - Erection of a single-storey extension. – **Permission granted, 3 conditions, 21st March 2022**

157-21/22 Heaths and Greens

a) To receive a report on Heaths and Greens

Mr Winterbourne referred to the fingerpost at the junction of Spring Lane, Argents Lane and Cooks Mill Lane and said action was needed.

He referred to signs at Brick Street and Huxtables Lane. Cllr Nokes said he had contacted Essex County Council about Brick Street and also Wood Lane. He said he would add Huxtables Lane to the list.

He said he was waiting for experts to look at the bat boxes as once they had been installed they could not be checked by the Council or residents as bats were a protected species.

He said kestrels were nesting in the owl boxes.

b) To consider and possibly agree to give permission for a street party to be held on Seven Star Green on Sunday 5 June 2022

It was **agreed** to give permission for a street party to be held on Seven Star Green on Sunday 5 June 2022

c) To consider and possibly agree to light a beacon on the heath on Thursday 2 June 2022 in commemoration of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

It was **agreed** to light a beacon on the heath on Thursday 2 June 2022 in commemoration of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

d) To consider and possibly agree to hold a picnic on the heath on Sunday 5 June 2022 as part of the celebration of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

It was **agreed** to hold a picnic on the heath on Sunday 5 June 2022 as part of the celebration of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

e) To receive an update on any outstanding issues affecting Parish Council land.

It was noted any issues would be brought to the next meeting.

158-21/22 Accounts & Payments:

- a) Statement of Accounts to be circulated prior to the meeting
- b) Approve cheques for signature in accordance with 2021/22 Budget (Invoices Sheet) – to be circulated at the meeting.

Cheques were approved for signature as listed below:

Various	Staff costs	£677.70
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159-21/22 To receive an update on the Parish Council's plans to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen and to note any action necessary

CLlr Nokes said the tree had been planted and he had the plaque. He said the Council was awaiting for confirmation on the oak tree to be received from Colchester Borough Council.

It was noted:

- A band would walk up from the Cricketers with the bugler for the lighting of the beacon; a special piece for the bugler and bagpipes would be performed as would a song by a local choir as the beacon is lit.
- Geoff Tye would light the beacon. Certificates would be considered for printing.
- Friday – a quiz at the Cricketers with proceeds to a local charity.
- Saturday – dance at 7pm. Tickets to be organised by CLlr Bilby and sold at the Cricketers.
- Afternoon Tea will be organised by Judy Alden at the Village Hall.
- Sunday – event on the heath including cricket, bouncy castle, fancy dress parade. Ice-creams to be purchased. Cricket Club has an amplifier.

CLlr Christie left the meeting at this point.

160-21/22 Highways

Signed _____
CLlr J. Jardine, Chairman

- a) **To consider and possibly agree to purchase a Vehicle Activated Sign and posts for use in the parish (quotes circulated prior to the meeting);**

It was **agreed** to purchase a Vehicle Activated Sign and three posts from Swarco.

- b) **If 145-21/22 a) above is agreed, to consider and possibly agree to purchase add-ons to the service;**

This item was deferred.

- c) **If 145-21/22 is agreed, to consider and possibly agree locations for the sign.**

This Item was deferred.

- d) **To discuss the drains along Spring Lane and note any action necessary.**

It was noted the problems with the drains on Spring Lane had been ongoing for a long time. Cllr Nokes said he would report the issues again.

- 161-21/22 To consider and possibly agree to accept a quote for printing 150 copies of the Eight Ash Green Welcome Pack**

It was **agreed** to accept the quote from Green Square for printing 150 copies of the Eight Ash Green Welcome Pack.

- 162-21/22 To consider and possibly agree to accept one of the quotes received for painting the Parish Council's bus stops.**

It was **agreed** to accept the quote from Tom's Toolbox for painting the Parish Council's bus-stops of £800.00

- 163-21/22 To receive reports from Councillors**

Cllr Bilby referred to the zebra crossing at the top of Spring Lane and said he would report on the Essex Highways website.

Cllr Willetts referred to the hole in Wood Lane and Cllr Smith said he would report this again.

Cllr Nokes said he had reported a problem on Brick Street which had now been sorted out.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

Cllr Willetts referred to Cllr Barber's email regarding new bus stops and said she had responded.

Cllr Jardine said he had taken part in a Speedwatch by the Halstead Road garage and many vehicles had been travelling in excess of 35mph with one lorry travelling at 46mph.

164-21/22 **Date of Next Planned Meeting:** Wednesday 11 May 2022 (Annual Meeting of the Council) at 7.30pm at the Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Colchester.

It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Thursday 26th May 2022 at 7.30pm.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman